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**Canada**

**Organic**

# **Canada Introduces National Standard for Organic Agriculture 1999**

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## **Report Highlights:**

**The government of Canada has issued a new National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture. The GOC believes the new national standard will increase acceptance of Canadian organic food both in domestic and export markets.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Ottawa [CA1], CA

## CANADA INTRODUCES NATIONAL STANDARD FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

The following text is taken from a June 29 Canada NewsWire story. For additional information on the organic market in Canada, please refer to report number CA9053.

Begin Text. The Government of Canada today unveiled a new National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture - a step that will clarify just what the "organic" in organic agriculture means.

The Government of Canada made the announcement through the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) of Public Works and Government Services Canada, and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), a federal Crown Corporation. The standard outlines principles for organic agriculture that endorse production and management practices that contribute to the quality and sustainability of the environment and ensure the ethical treatment of livestock.

The joint announcement was made today by the Honourable John Manley, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Standards Council of Canada, the Honourable Alfonso Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and the Honourable Lyle Vanclief, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

"We now have a national standard that can be recognized and applied in markets around the globe," said Minister Manley. "For Canadian producers of organic agri-foods produce this will translate to greater and easier access to international markets that demand these kinds of standards." Mr. Manley added that he was pleased to see the SCC actively promoting efficient and effective standardization in accordance with its mandate.

"I am very proud of the consensus-building work done by the Canadian General Standards Board in managing the development of this important new standard," said Minister Gagliano. "It was developed through the CGSB Standards Committee on Organic Agriculture, which comprises various technical experts who provided broad-based input. Once again, the CGSB has demonstrated its unique expertise and valuable leadership as the Government of Canada's leading standardization organization."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which delivers all federally mandated food inspection activities, supported the Canadian organic industry in its efforts to establish the national standard. "This new National Standard of Canada will provide consumers with a consistent meaning for 'organic', helping them to make more informed choices," said Minister Vanclief. "All food produced in Canada, whether organic or not, must meet the same stringent requirements for safety and quality."

Among its provisions, the standard:

- prohibits use of ionizing radiation in the preservation of food
- prohibits use of genetically engineered or modified organisms
- encourages maximum use of recycling
- encourages maximum rotation of crops and promotion of biodiversity.

The document is available for purchase by the general public, and an abstract of the Standard will be available on the Web site of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB): <http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb>

To order copies of the National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture, which will be listed as CAN/CGSB-32.310, contact:

CGSB Sales Centre

Ottawa, Canada

K1A 1G6

Phone: (819) 956-0425

or 1-800-665-2472 (Canada only)

Fax: (819) 956-5644

Email address: For English materials: [ncr.cgsb-ongc\(at\)pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:ncr.cgsb-ongc(at)pwgsc.gc.ca)

For further information: Fran Gershberg, PWGSC Communications, (819) 956-9199; Christina Van Loon, Standards Council of Canada, (613) 238-3222 ext. 195; Frank Massong, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, (613) 228-6682.

End Text.